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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

7 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. W. W. Rostow  
Deputy Special Assistant to the President

SUBJECT : Guerrilla Warfare Doctrine and Rationale

1. I was greatly stimulated by our conversation at the Planning Luncheon on 5 July and in particular by the way in which you gave expression to a proposed rationale of counter subversive action. Accordingly, I have made an effort in the notes attached hereto to reduce these ideas to writing without, may I say, making any great effort to state them elegantly.

2. One of my main reasons for so doing was to try to convey in clearer terms than I have been able so far this line of reasoning to Jim Cross. I would, therefore, much appreciate your informal reaction.

3. I should make clear to you that whereas I credit you with the central reasoning of this paper, you will find in it a mixture of my own ideas in the form of prefatory remarks about the doctrine of non-intervention, considerable elaboration of the doctrine you expressed, and certain remarks about its implications for covert operations.

4. Whatever may be your view of these ideas set down in this fashion, I find this doctrine more satisfying than other formulations I have seen. If your own thinking is more or less along these lines, I begin to believe our long delayed guerrilla warfare paper can have something important to say.

  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

Attachment:

cc: Mr. James Cross, IDA

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5/21/98

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262